

REMARKS

In the foregoing amendments, claims 71, 72, 74, 75, 87-99 and 102-110 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 117-163 are newly added to more clearly define the embodiments of the present application. Applicants reserve the right to file the canceled claims in a continuation application if desired. Claims 117-163 are now pending in the present application. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application and currently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Response to Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 71, 72, 74, 75, 87-92, 99-102, 104-107, and 109 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Legall et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,005,565) in view of *Ellis et al.* (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0283810). Also, claims 93-98 and 103 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Legall et al.* in view of *Ellis et al.*, and further in view of *Koshimuta* (U.S. Patent No. 6,515,710). Claims 108 and 110 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Legall et al.* in view of *Ellis et al.*, and further in view of *Sahai et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,594,699). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection on the grounds that the cited references fail to teach or suggest every feature of the claims. However, because of the cancellation of the rejected claims, the rejections are rendered moot.

New Claims

A. Claims 117-131

Independent claim 117 is reproduced below:

117. A method for enabling a user to search for media programs, the method comprising:

enabling a user to record a first set of media programs in a first storage device associated with a personal video recorder (PVR);

storing media information corresponding to the first set of media programs in the first storage device;

receiving media information corresponding to a second set of media programs that are currently being broadcast;

receiving media information corresponding to a third set of media programs that are to be broadcast in the future;

storing the media information corresponding to the second and third sets of media programs in a second storage device;

providing to the user a search option to search for media programs;

responsive to the user activating the search option, enabling the user to enter a search term;

responsive to the user entering a search term, searching the first and second storage devices for media information having a high level of correlation with the search term; and

providing a list of media programs corresponding to the media information having a high level of correlation with the search term.

(Emphasis added)

The cited references fail to teach or suggest the above-highlighted features of claim 117. For example, the cited references fail to search a first storage device and a second storage device for media information having a high level of correlation with a search term, where a first set of media programs is recorded in the first storage device, which is associated with a personal video recorder (PVR). Particularly, the cited references fail to teach or suggest not only media programs that are currently being broadcast or are to be broadcast in the future, both also programs that are recorded in a storage device associated with a PVR. For at least these reasons, it is believed that claim 117 is allowable over the combination of references. Also, claims 118-131 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that they depend from allowable independent claim 117.

B. Claims 132-148

Independent claim 132 is reproduced below:

132. A set-top terminal (STT) comprising:

a memory device configured to stored media information corresponding to media programs, the memory device in communication with a personal video recorder (PVR), *the PVR configured to record a first set of media programs*;

a processor in communication with the memory device, *the processor configured to store media information corresponding to the first set of media programs*; and

a receiving device for receiving media information corresponding to a second set of media programs that are currently being broadcast or are to be broadcast in the future;

wherein *the processor is configured to store in the memory device the media information corresponding to the second set of media programs*;

wherein the processor is further configured to provide to the user a search option to search for media programs, and, responsive to the user activating the search option, to enable the user to enter a search term; and

wherein, *responsive to the user entering a search term, the processor is further configured to search for media information having a high level of correlation with the search term*, and to provide a list of media programs corresponding to the media information having a high level of correlation with the search term.

(Emphasis added)

The cited references fail to teach or suggest the above-highlighted features of claim 132. For example, the cited references fail to provide a processor configured to search for media information having a high level of correlation with a search term, where the media information corresponds to first and second sets of media programs, the first set recorded by a PVR and the second set corresponding to programs that are currently being broadcast or are to be broadcast in the future. Particularly, the cited references fail to teach or suggest not only media programs currently being broadcast or to be broadcast in the future, both also PVR recorded programs. For at least these reasons, it is believed that claim 132 is allowable over the combination of references. Also, claims 133-148 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that they depend from allowable independent claim 132.

C. Claims 149-163

Independent claim 149 is reproduced below:

149. An interactive media services system comprising:

memory for storing media information, the media information including information related to a title, start time, and media type for each of a plurality of media programs;

a software program stored in memory, the software program comprising a plurality of executable functions;

a processor configured to execute the software program, wherein executing the software program includes:

enabling a user to record a first set of media programs in a storage device associated with a personal video recorder (PVR);

storing media information corresponding to the first set of media programs in the memory;

receiving media information corresponding to a second set of media programs that are currently being broadcast or are to be broadcast in the future;

storing the media information corresponding to the second set of media programs in the memory;

providing to the user a search option to search for media programs;

responsive to the user activating the search option, enabling the user to enter a search term;

responsive to the user entering a search term, searching the memory for media information having a high level of correlation with the search term; and

providing a list of media programs corresponding to the media information having a high level of correlation with the search term.

(Emphasis added)

The cited references fail to teach or suggest the above-highlighted features of claim 149. For example, the cited references fail to provide a software program executed by a processor for searching memory for media information having a high level of correlation with a search term. Specifically, the memory that is searched includes media information corresponding to a first set of

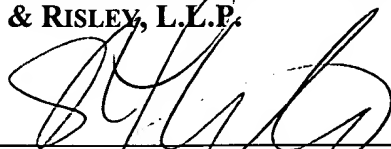
media programs associated with a PVR and a second set of media programs that are currently being broadcast or are to be broadcast in the future. The cited references fail to teach or suggest, therefore, not only programs that are currently being broadcast or are to be broadcast in the future, both also media programs associated with a PVR. For at least these reasons, it is believed that claim 149 is allowable over the combination of references. Also, claims 150-163 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that they depend from allowable independent claim 149.

CONCLUSION

Any other statements in the Office Action that are not explicitly addressed herein are not intended to be admitted. In addition, any and all findings of inherency are traversed as not having been shown to be necessarily present. Furthermore, any and all findings of well-known art and official notice, or statements interpreted similarly, should not be considered well-known since the Office Action does not include specific factual findings predicated on sound technical and scientific reasoning to support such conclusions.

Applicants respectfully maintain that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions that would place the subject patent application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

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